



TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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DAN McALLISTER
Treasurer-Tax Collector



For Immediate Release

DATE: September 23, 2005

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R-59.6: 516

PROPERTY TAX BILLS ARE IN THE MAIL!

SAN DIEGO RESIDENTS MAILED MORE THAN 930,000

San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister announced today that over the next 10 days, more than 934,000 newly redesigned statements and property tax bills will be mailed to San Diego County property owners. In all, the property tax bills should generate a record, \$3,565,874,923.82 for the 2005-2006 tax year.

“I am proud of the efforts we have made to further enhance the quality and clarity of the San Diego County Property Tax bills. This year we are mailing a record 934,093 bills and all of them reflect the inputs and suggestions we have received from our customers, the taxpayers. Our primary mission in the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s office is to deliver fast, friendly and efficient services to taxpayers and our new and improved bill this year is yet another step toward fulfilling that goal”, McAllister said.

Under McAllister’s leadership the County’s Tax bill was given it’s first “total make-over” last year after more than half a century. This year’s tax bill changes, while not as many in number feature further improvements to make the bills more user friendly. Several of the new changes to the bill include: (1) an updated San Diego “skyline” photo tying the bill to the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s website home page; (2) watermark identification in bold letters in the center of the bill showing the type of bill the taxpayer is receiving; (3) **high-lighted** (in yellow) the fields showing the Parcel Number for the specific property being taxed and the amount the taxpayer is supposed to pay; (4) numbered information fields on the tax bill for easier reference when seeking assistance; and (5) bolded and **high-lighted** in red, the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s website to promote more on-line tax payments.

“The bills that we are mailing out are expected to generate more than \$3.5 billion, which represents the largest single source of revenues to local governments, school and fire districts and the County. This year, real property in San Diego County has a combined assessed valuation of nearly \$319.4 billion, an increase of \$37.6 billion over last year’s total valuation. The valuation is the highest in County history. Under the guidelines established by Proposition 13 in 1978, counties in California collect 1% of their assessed valuation for real property. Additionally, counties may collect for voter approved bonds and special district fees where applicable,” McAllister said.

Each year the billing process is triggered by completion of the “tax roll” by the County Assessor with individual bill payment calculations completed by the County Auditor. The statements and tax bills are then printed and mailed to property owners.

“This is a real team effort here at the County. We want to make sure that all property owners receive their tax bills in a timely manner so they can plan their payments and avoid any costly penalties,” said McAllister. “Payments are due in two equal installments on December 12, 2005(two days later than normal due to December 10th falling on Saturday) and April 10, 2006. Late payments automatically trigger late charges of 10% on the first installment payment; an additional penalty of 10% plus a \$10 cost fee is applied on the second installment if it is late.”

“Remarkably enough, and in spite of the best efforts of our team here at the County to assure proper current addresses of our property owners, an estimated 15,000 bills or 1.7% of all those we mail, will be returned as “undeliverable” by the Post Office. It is important to remind taxpayers that even if they do not receive their property tax bills, **they are still responsible for payment of the tax bill.** Anyone who does not receive their property tax bill within the next three weeks should call the Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office at (1-877-TAX-4SDC or 1-877-829-4732) to obtain a copy,” McAllister concluded.

For Taxpayers’ convenience, information is available and payments can be made online at the Treasurer-Tax Collector Website: **www.sdtreastax.com**

Information for Payment of Property Taxes

The following information is provided to facilitate property tax payments:

- **In-person comprehensive tax assistance and bill payment at five offices located throughout San Diego County:**

Downtown San Diego: 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 162
(County Administration Center)

El Cajon: 200 South Magnolia Avenue

Chula Vista: 590 Third Avenue

San Marcos: 334 Via Vera Cruz

Kearny Mesa: 9225 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard

- **Tax assistance and bill payment by phone.** Taxpayers can dial a toll-free number (**1-877-TAX-4SDC or 1-877-829-4732**) to speak with a Treasurer-Tax Collector team member between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Recorded information about the most frequently asked questions is also available at this number on a 24/7 basis. Both the live and recorded options are offered in English and in Spanish. Currently, taxpayers can pay their property tax bills by phone using VISA or Discover Card. Credit card companies charge a transaction fee for payments made by credit card. The transaction fee breakdown is as follows:
 - VISA: 1.88%
 - Discover: Sliding scale fee up to \$50

For the hearing or speech impaired, TTY telephone service is available at **1-877-735-2929**.

- **Online tax information and bill payment at www.sdtreastax.com.** To avoid a trip to a branch location, taxpayers can view and pay their property tax bill online. Currently, taxpayers can pay their property tax bills online using either e-check, VISA or MasterCard. The website uses secure, state-of-the-art technology designed to prevent fraud and invasion of taxpayers' privacy. Credit card companies charge a transaction fee for payments made by credit card. The transaction fee break down is as follows:
 - VISA: 1.88%
 - MasterCard: 1.88%
 - Discover: Sliding scale fee up to \$50

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's website now provides information in English and Spanish to make online navigation easier for taxpayers who prefer to obtain information about their tax payment and make online payments in Spanish. Taxpayers wishing to view the Treasurer-Tax Collector's website in Spanish should go to **www.sdtreastax.com**, and then select the "**Español**" option on the homepage.

For the hearing or speech impaired, a TTY "Click to Chat" feature is available on the Treasurer-Tax Collector's website at www.sdtreastax.com to communicate with a Treasurer-Tax Collector team member.

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